

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants attorney would like to thank Examiners Ton and O'Shea for the courtesy of the interview held on August 2, 2005. In that interview, a proposed amendment to claims 5 and 6 to rewrite these claim into independent form was discussed and a pair of exhibits were presented to the examiners for their review. Applicants' counsel noted that there was no motivation for the combination of Tjonneland and Conti to reject the claims of record. It was noted that a further search would be required.

Formal drawings were filed with the application on 9/30/2003. A review of the Office Action has failed to uncover whether the drawings were accepted by the Official Draftsman or whether a Form 948 rejection was issued by the Official Draftsman. An indication of the status of the drawings is respectfully requested with the next communication from the Patent Office.

Claims 1 and 21 have been cancelled by the present amendment. Claims 2-20 will remain for further consideration. Claim 4 has been rewritten into independent form and includes all of the limitations of claims 1 and 4 as well the language "said at least one light source is disposed at a corresponding end of said at least one translucent fiber optic core" of claim 5.

Claim 6 has been rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of claims 1 and 4 except that the language of claim 1 "having a continuously and uniformly" has been omitted.

The Examiner indicated that claims 18 to 20 are allowed. The indication of this allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Summary

Applicants have made a diligent and bona fide effort to answer each and every ground for rejection or objection to the specification including the claims and to place the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested, and for the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition to be passed to issue and such action is earnestly solicited. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone David H. Voorhees, Applicants' Attorney at 703-684-5633 to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Dated: August 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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